

## CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. System for authorizing access to resources requested by a first user, said first user submitting an ID of said first user as an individual requesting access to one of said resources, said first user being a member of a group comprising a plurality of individual users, said system comprising:
  - a first table indicating at least one group of a plurality of individual users;
  - a second table indicating which resources are accessible by which of said users and which resources are accessible by which of said groups; and
  - authorization means for comparing said first user to entries in said first table to determine which group or groups said first user is a member and comparing said first user and said group or groups in which said first user is a member to entries in said second table to determine which resources said first user is authorized to access.
2. A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said user ID corresponds to a plurality of different descriptions of said first user, and said authorization means compares all of said descriptions of said first user and said group or groups in which said first user is a member to said second table to determine which resources said first user is authorized to access.

1 3. A system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a third table correlating said ID of  
2 said first user to at least one description of said first user as an individual, and wherein  
3 said authorization means compares said group or groups in which said first user is a  
4 member and at least one description of said first user, but not said ID of said first user, to  
5 said second table to determine which resources said first user is authorized to access.

1 4. A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first table also includes an ID of the group  
2 in which said first user is a member and a description of said group in which said first  
3 user is a member, and said authorization means compares said description name of said  
4 first user as an individual, but not said ID of said first user as an individual and said  
5 description of said group in which said first user is a member, but not said ID of said  
6 group in which said first user is a member, to said second table to determine which  
7 resources said first user is authorized to access.

1 5. A system as set forth in claim 4 wherein said first user can submit said group ID to  
2 request authorization to access resources accessible to said group.

1 6. A system as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first table stores IDs, names or descriptions  
2 of said plurality of individual users and a corresponding ID, name or description of said  
3 group in which said plurality of individual users are members, said second table stores  
4 said IDs, names or descriptions of said plurality of individual users as separate entries and  
5 said ID, name or description of said group as another entry separate from said IDs, names  
6 or descriptions of said plurality of individual users, and each of said entries corresponds  
7 to a resource or resource that for which authorization is permitted.

- 1 7. A method for authorizing access to resources requested by a first user, said first user  
2 submitting an ID of said first user as an individual requesting access to one of said  
3 resources, said first user being a member of a group comprising a plurality of individual  
4 users, said system comprising:
- 5 storing a first table indicating at least one group of a plurality of individual users;
- 6 storing a second table indicating which resources are accessible by which of said users  
7 and which resources are accessible by which of said groups;
- 8 comparing said first user to entries in said first table to determine which group or groups  
9 said first user is a member; and
- 10 comparing said first user and said group or groups in which said first user is a member to  
11 entries in said second table to determine which resources said first user is authorized to  
12 access.
- 1 8. A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said user ID corresponds to a plurality of  
2 different descriptions of said first user, and the step of comparing said first user and said  
3 group comprises the step of comparing all of said descriptions of said first user and said  
4 group or groups in which said first user is a member to said second table to determine  
5 which resources said first user is authorized to access.

1 9. A method as set forth in claim 7 further comprising the step of storing a third table  
2 correlating said ID of said first user to at least one description of said first user as an  
3 individual, and wherein the step of comparing said first user and said group comprises the  
4 step of comparing said group or groups in which said first user is a member and at least  
5 one description of said first user, but not said ID of said first user, to said second table to  
6 determine which resources said first user is authorized to access.

1 10. A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said first table also includes an ID of the group  
2 in which said first user is a member and a description of said group in which said first  
3 user is a member, and the step of comparing said first user and said group comprises the  
4 step of comparing said description name of said first user as an individual, but not said ID  
5 of said first user as an individual and said description of said group in which said first  
6 user is a member, but not said ID of said group in which said first user is a member, to  
7 said second table to determine which resources said first user is authorized to access.

1 11. A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said first user submits said group ID to request  
2 authorization to access resources accessible to said group.

1 12. A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said first table stores IDs, names or descriptions  
2 of said plurality of individual users and a corresponding ID, name or description of said  
3 group in which said plurality of individual users are members, said second table stores  
4 said IDs, names or descriptions of said plurality of individual users as separate entries and  
5 said ID, name or description of said group as another entry separate from said IDs, names  
6 or descriptions of said plurality of individual users, and each of said entries corresponds  
7 to a resource or resource that for which authorization is permitted.

1 13. A computer program product for authorizing access to resources requested by a first user,  
2 said first user submitting an ID of said first user as an individual requesting access to one  
3 of said resources, said first user being a member of a group comprising a plurality of  
4 individual users, said computer program product comprising:  
  
5 a computer readable medium;  
  
6 first program instruction means for storing a first table indicating at least one group of a  
7 plurality of individual users;  
  
8 second program instruction means for storing a second table indicating which resources  
9 are accessible by which of said users and which resources are accessible by which of said  
10 groups; and  
  
11 third program instruction means for comparing said first user to entries in said first table  
12 to determine which group or groups said first user is a member and comparing said first  
13 user and said group or groups in which said first user is a member to entries in said  
14 second table to determine which resources said first user is authorized to access; and  
  
15 wherein said first, second and third program instruction means are recorded on said  
16 computer readable medium.

1 14. System for authorizing access to resources requested by a user, said system comprising:  
  
2 a first table correlating an ID of said user as an individual to at least one description of  
3 said user as an individual;

4 a second table indicating at least one grouping of a plurality of individual user  
5 descriptions into a group;

6 a third table indicating which resources are accessible by which of said user descriptions  
7 and which resources are accessible by which of said groups; and

8 authorization means for (a) comparing said user ID to entries in said first table to  
9 determine the description or descriptions of said user, (b) comparing said description or  
10 descriptions of said user to entries in said second table to determine which group or  
11 groups said user is a member and (c) comparing said description or descriptions of said  
12 user and said group or groups in which said user is a member to entries in said third table  
13 to determine which resources said user ID is authorized to access.

- 1 15. A system as set forth in claim 7 wherein said second table also includes an ID of the  
2 group in which said first user is a member and a description of said group in which said  
3 first user is a member, and said authorization means compares said description name of  
4 said first user as an individual, but not said ID of said first user as an individual and said  
5 description of the group in which said first user is a member, but not said ID of said group  
6 in which said first user is a member, to said third table to determine which resources said  
7 first user is authorized to access.